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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,239	04/20/2001	Srikanth Natarajan	10007591/020	9191

7590 04/15/2005
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
PHAN, TAM T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2144	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/838,239	Applicant(s) NATARAJAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Tam (Jenny) Phan	Art Unit 2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/20/2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/03/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. No priority claims have been made.
3. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 04/20/2001 (20 April 2001).

Information Disclosure Statement

4. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Received 12/03/2004 (December 03, 2004), is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lecheler et al. (WO 00/49769), hereinafter referred to as Lecheler.
7. Regarding claim 1, Lecheler disclosed a method of managing a computer network, comprising the steps of: assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the collection computer that includes the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management computer a mapping

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table [a database] of the information accessed using the management domain identifier (Title, Abstract, Figures 1 and 3, page 10 lines 7-19, page 13 lines 20-23).

8. Regarding claim 2, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the step of assigning comprises the step of establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain includes at least one collection computer (Figures 1 and 3, page 8 lines 10-31, page 12 lines 7-20).

9. Regarding claim 3, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain (page 10 line 26-page 11 line 13).

10. Regarding claim 4, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the information is network topology information (page 13 lines 14-23, page 15 lines 13-28, page 18 lines 3-11).

11. Regarding claim 7, Lecheler disclosed a method comprising the step of managing, by each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in the information received at the at least one management computer (page 10 lines 7-19, page 15 lines 13-28).

12. Regarding claim 8, Lecheler disclosed a system for managing a computer network, comprising: a plurality of collection computers, wherein each collection computer is assigned a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; at least one management computer for receiving information, from the plurality of collection computers, that includes the management domain identifier; and at least one computer database for maintaining within the at least one management computer information

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accessed using the management domain identifier (Title, Abstract, Figures 1, 3, page 10 lines 7-19, page 13 lines 20-23).

13. Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by Lecheler, claims 1-4 and 7-8 are rejected.

14. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

15. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pulsipher et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,948,055), hereinafter referred to as Pulsipher.

16. Regarding claim 1, Pulsipher disclosed a method of managing a computer network, comprising the steps of: assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the collection computer that includes the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain identifier (Figures 2-5, column 3 lines 16-32, column 7 lines 41-57, column 8 lines 7-24, column 10 lines 13-25).

17. Regarding claim 2, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the step of assigning comprises the step of establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain includes at least one collection computer (Figure 2, column 6 lines 11-19, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).

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18. Regarding claim 3, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain (column 10 lines 13-25).

19. Regarding claim 4, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the information is network topology information (Abstract, Figures 2-3B, column 6 lines 52-64, column 7 lines 41-57).

20. Regarding claim 5, Pulsipher disclosed a method, wherein the step of receiving comprises the steps of receiving first information from a first collection computer, wherein the first information includes a first network address and a first management domain identifier; receiving second information from a second collection computer, wherein the second information includes a second network address and a second management domain identifier, wherein the second network address is identical to the first network address; comparing the second network address to the first network address using the second management domain identifier and the first management domain identifier; assigning a network element associated with the second network address as a primary network element when the second network address belongs to a different management domain than the first network address; and assigning the network element associated with the second network address as a secondary network element when the second network address belongs to a same management domain as the first network address (Figure 2, Figures 8A-8B, Figures 13-15B, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 20-31, column 15 lines 33-48).

21. Regarding claim 6, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the step of maintaining comprises the step of using management domain identifiers to consolidate network topology information from collection computers having identical network addresses and

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belonging to different management domains (Figure 2, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).

22. Regarding claim 7, Pulsipher disclosed a method comprising the step of managing, by each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in the information received at the at least one management computer (column 9 line 56-column 10 line 7, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 8-31).

23. Regarding claim 8, the system corresponds directly to the method of claim 1, and thus is rejected using the same rationale.

24. Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by Pulsipher, claims 1-8 are rejected.

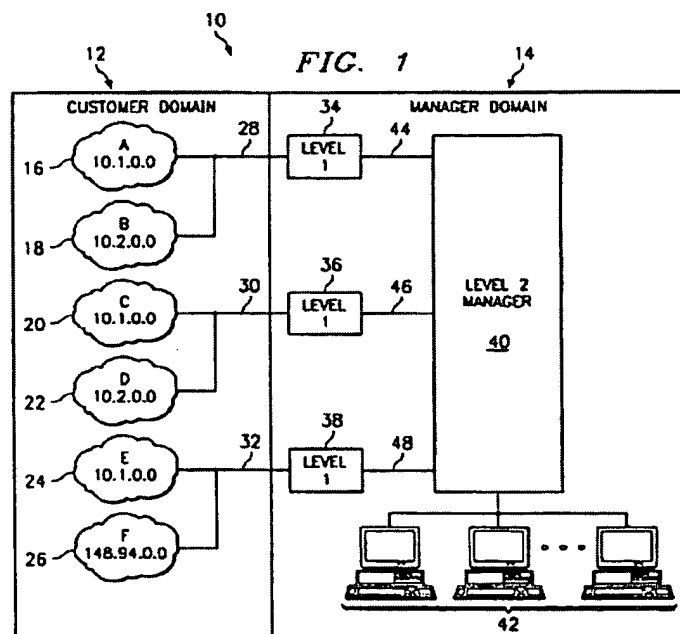
Response for Arguments

25. Applicant's arguments filed 09/09/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

26. In response to applicant's arguments that Lecheler does not disclose assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Lecheler disclosed a collection of nodes that are linked to the Manager Domain Level 1 as shown in Figure 1 below. Lecheler also disclosed "A sample format of a unique location identifier could be "customer_interface.customer_node.customer_domain. customer location; L1_mgr_name. L2_mgr_name". By focusing on the domain name of the managed device experiencing an error instead of the network address, unique identification of the

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managed device can be obtained" (page 11 lines 7-13), "The error notice received by network node manager 92 may contain a description of the error and the network address of the node or interface link which experienced the error. Network node manager 92 has a mapping table 84 which converts the network address into a unique domain name. Mapping table 84 is separately maintained and contains a list of all network addresses connected to level one manager 34 and a unique domain name for each of those network addresses" (page 13 lines 14-24), and "If step 114 indicates that an error condition or unacceptable condition exists, the process proceeds to step 116 where network node manager 92 determines a unique domain name for the node experiencing the error or unacceptable condition using mapping table 84. The process then proceeds to step 118 where network node manager 92 creates a unique location identifier from the unique domain name and the domain name of level one manager 34" (column 17 lines 4-15), thus it should be obvious that the a unique domain name [identifier] was assigned to a group of managed nodes.



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27. In response to applicant's argument that Lecheler does not disclose maintaining within the at least one management computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain identifier, it is submitted that Lecheler disclosed a method for remote management of networks and a network management system that focus on a unique domain name of the managed device. Lecheler further disclosed forwarding management information (i.e. error messages) to level 2 manager for storing and routing to specified operating consoles.

28. In response to applicant's argument that Pulsipher patent does not disclose assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain, the Examiner again respectfully disagrees. Pulsipher disclosed "Each type of object has a unique type of "name" field that is used to identify it. For example, networks have an "IP Network Name" that is based on the IP subnet address and subnet mask of the network. Segments have an "IP Segment Name" that is composed of the name of the network that contains the segment, and the word "segment" with a unique number after it. Nodes have an "IP Hostname" that is based on the official IP hostname of the node, while each interface has an IP address. Each object has multiple types of identifiers (IDs). First, each individual object has a "universal unique identifier" (UUID). The UUID is basically a string that is guaranteed to be unique across multiple stations 100. Additionally, each object has associated with it a local identifier called the "local object ID". This identifier is an integer for use within a local station 100. When multiple versions of an object are reported with the same name field, they should all map to the same local object ID" column 10 lines 13-25), and "At block 1002, object identifiers are verified. This process is more fully described with reference to FIG. 11. This is one of the places where an overlap can be detected by

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examining object names. As part of this process, the object is checked for a UUID and a local ID. A local ID may be assigned, if none exists. Block 1002 transfers to block 1003” (column 13 lines 55-60), thus, it should be obvious that the use of unique identifier is possible in the teachings of Pulsipher in order to efficiently discover network management information.

29. As the rejection reads, the Office asserts that the combination of these teachings render the claimed invention obvious.

Conclusion

30. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

31. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details.

32. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam (Jenny) Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski can be reached on (571) 272-3925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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tp
April 14, 2005